

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04100 092014 Z

73-60

ACTION VO-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ADP-00 SCA-01 SY-02 ST-01 /012 W

----- 020413

R 091445 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1537

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4100

LIMDIS

FOR A/ SY AND SCA

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, ASEC

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE COMPROMISE OF R-500 VISA MACHINE RIBBON, BEIRUT

REF: STATE 039539

1. ON APRIL 3, 1973 IT WAS LEARNED THAT GSO LOCAL ON OWN INITIATIVE HAD ORDERED R-400 RIBBONS FOR VISA MACHINE BECAUSE SAY FROM INVENTORY CARDS THAT STOCK ALMOST DEPLETED. WHEN RIBBONS ARRIVED THEY WERE R-500 S AND CAME IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PACKAGE. INADVERTANTLY R-500 RIBBONS TURNED OVER TO GSO LOCAL SUPPLY CLERK THROUGH HIS LOCAL EMPLOYEE SUPERVISOR. THIS HAD BEEN PROCEDURE WITH R-400 RIDBONS.

2. ALL VISA MACHINE RIBBONS AT BEIRUT NOW ACCOUNTED FOR AND KEPT IN CLASSIFIED REPOSITORY. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS PROBABLE THAT LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHO HANDLED R-500 RIBBON DO NOT KNOW THAT NEW RIBBON IN USE. HOWEVER, COMPROMISE OF RIBBON MUST BE CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY ALTHOUGH RSO INVESTIGATION DETERMINES POSSIBILITY TO BE REMOTE. RSO WILL CHARGE GSO SECTION WITH SECURITY VIOLATION. PROCEDURES HAVE NOW BEEN CLARIFIED TO ATTEMPT PREVENT RECURRENCE.

3. POST UNDERSTANDS THAT PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING NEW RIBBONS DESIGNED TO CALL AS LITTLE ATTENTION AS POSSIBLE TO CHANGE IN RIBBONS; HOWEVER, PROCEDURES SEEM TO LEND THEMSELVES TO SITUATION THAT OCCURRED HERE. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT
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CONSIDER SENDING ALL NEW RIBBONS UNDER CONFIDENTIAL COVER
DIRECTLY TO CONSULAR SECTION.
BUFFUM

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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